

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4689

CALCUTTA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, US

SUBJ: NEPALESE VIEWS ON SOUTH ASIA AND NEPAL-U.S. RELATIONSHIP

1. SUMMARY. IN A FRIENDLY AND LIVELY DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY
RSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS, PALACE ADVISER CHIRANNSYAPA SPOKE
FREELY ABOUT NEPAL'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND
PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA. HE WAS DIRECT IN HIS
APPRECIATION FPN U.S. AID QFD IN EXPRESSING HIS HOPES THPT THE
UNITZY STATES PRESENCE IN NEPAL WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT PRESENT
LEVELS IF NOT INCREASED. END SUMMARY

2. IN A WIDE-RANGING FORTY-MINUTE DISCUSSION BETWEEN VISITING
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AND CHIRAN THAPA, PRESS AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER TO THE KING, THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST EMERGED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THAPA'S REQUEST FOR A WASHINGTON
ASSESSMENT OF MAJOR ISSUES AFFECTING SOUTH ASIA,DUBS
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RESPONDED WITH AN OVERVIEW STATEMENT STRESSING U.S. INTERESTS
IN STABILITY IN THE AREA, THE RELATION OF OUR ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO ENIS, AND THE U.S. CONCERN WITH GLOBAL ISSUES - FOOD, ENERGY, POPULATION - IMPACTING HEAVILY ON THE SOUTH ASIAN AREA.

4. EMPHASIZING THE U.S. DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO NEPAL IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DUBS NOTED THAT U.S. RESOURCES WERE NOT UNLIMITED BUT THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND THE PRIORITIES WE FACED. (THAPA EXPRESSED NEPAL'S WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE USAID PROGRAM IN NEPAL, WHICH HE NOTED HAD EXTENDED OVER MANY YEARS. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE NEPALESE PEOPLE. THAPA MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF STATING NEPAL'S RECOGNITION THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDED NOT ONLY BILATERAL PROGRAMS BUT THE HEAVY U.S. INPUT OF RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMS OF MULTILATERAL AGENCIES IN NEPAL. NEPAL, HE SAID, WOULD WELCOME MORE AID FROM THE UNITED STATES "IF COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. GLOBAL PRIORITIES."

5. THAPA SOLICITED U.S. SUPPORT FOR NEPAL'S EFFORTS TO GAIN RECOGNITION OF NEPAL AS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED" BY THE ENERGY CRISIS.

6. DUBS ADDRESSED TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CURRENT CONCERN, KOREA AND THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. ON KOREA, DUBS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE NEPALESE COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT ON PROCEDURE, BUT STRONGLY URGED THAT THE ISSUES NOW BEFORE THE UNGA MERITED NEPALESE SUPPORT ON SUBSTANCE AS WELL. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION THAT NO DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE INVOLVING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS BEING COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC AND UNSUPPORTABLE. RECALLING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THE KOREAN QUESTION IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUE FOR US IN THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DUBS SAID THAT NEPALESE SUPPORT WOULD FIND MUCH FAVOR IN WASHINGTON. DUBS NOTED THAT THE DRUG PROBLEM WAS OF WORLDWIDE CONCERN TO US. HE TOLD THAPA THAT HASH AND HASH OIL FROM NEPAL WERE REACHING THE UNITED STATES AND THAT ALL NEPALESE EFFORTS TO ENSURE TIGHTER DRUG CONTROLS WOULD BE WARMLY APPRECIATED.

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7. THAPA MADE NO RESPONSE ON THESE TWO ISSUES EXCEPT TO SAY THAT NEPAL WAS ALWAYS READY TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

8. RESPONDING TO DUBS' REQUEST FOR HIS APPRAISAL OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA, THAPA SAID THAT HE FORESAW MANY POSSIBLE DANGERS AHEAD AND THOUGHT THE

NEXT FIVE YEARS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS THAPA SAID TLET HE HAD RECENTLY SYSTEMATICALLY STUDIED THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AMONT THE "BAY OF BENGAL BASIN" COUNTRYMAN IN WHICH HE INCLUDED CHINA FOR THIS PROPOSED STANDARD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE FIVE MAIN THRBSTS H LVACE AND STABILITY. HE IDENTIFIED THESE AS: (A) PROBLEMS RELATING TO MINORITY PEOPLES, CITING THE NAGAS, TGE MIZOS AND THE TIBETANS; (B) TERRITORIAL AND RELATED DISPUTES, NOTING THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER AREA, THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER AND OFFSHORE OIL AREAS IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, AND WATER RIGHTS DISPUTES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH; (C) THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES, OF WHICH THERE HZJ BEEN THREE IN THIS AREA (NEPAL, BHUTAN AND SIKKIM), THAPA NOTED, BUT NOW ONLY TWO; (D) PROBLEMS ARISING FROM "MILITARIZATION" OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, THAPA OBSERVING POINT-EDLY THAT MILITARIZATION BY MEDIUM POWERS (E.G. INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN) WAS INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY; AND (E) THE CRUSHING POVERTY WHICH BESETS SO MUCH OF THIS AREA AND WHICH WILL BE ACCENTUATED BY SURGING POPULATION GROWTH.

9. THAPA REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED NEPALESE SATISFACTION WITH NEPAL'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE VALUE THEY ATTACH TO THE U.S. PRESENCE IN NEPAL. THAPA TOLD DUBS NEPAL WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE U.S. PRESENCE EVEN BIGR R IF WE SO WISHED, BUT THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD REMAIN AT LEAST AS LARGE AS AT PRESENT. CARGO

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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